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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

the gull

Volume 57 Berkeley, Calif. January 1975 Number 1

From Your President's Stockpile

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY OF CHRISTMAS COUNTS: While we await published results of our 1974 Christmas count in the *Gull* and later in the "Seventy-Fifth Annual Christmas Count" published in *American Birds,* I thought you might enjoy a recapitulation of the history of our own Bay Area count as gleaned from the *Gull* 1917-1974.

Even before our forerunner, the Audubon Society of the Pacific, was founded in 1917, a Christmas bird census was made in San Francisco; a number of the early recorders were among the Society's first members. Not until 1928 was the Christmas census published in the *Gull;* it listed 68 species seen by 12 participants. At that time the census area did not include much more than Golden Gate Park and sometimes Lake Merced.

The December 1938 issue of the *Gull* notes that between 1915-1937 a total of 139 species was recorded on the S.F. Christmas count with an average count of 80.3. A comparison between San Francisco and Monterey from 1932-1937 shows that 119 species were recorded in San

Francisco while Monterey recorded 136 species with an average of 100 species per count. The San Francisco count area had come to include in general the Marina, Presidio, Golden Gate Park, Ocean Beach, and Lake Merced. By 1940 the total number of species recorded in the S.F. count was 142; the highest number seen on any one count was 100, and the maximum number of participants on any one count was 24.

EARLY EAST BAY COUNTS: January censuses at Lake Merritt recorded in the *Gull* go back to 1926 although this had been an annual event since the Society was founded. The first annual Christmas bird census taken in Oakland was undertaken by the Oakland Ornithological Club in 1935. It covered the El Cerrito marshes, the East Oakland hills, Lake Temescal, the San Pablo and upper San Leandro reservoirs and Lake Merritt to Bay Farm Island. Seven participants, including present GGAS member and zoologist Morgan Harris, turned up a total of 107 species. Also in 1935 Junea Kelly (who sparked the interest of so many Bay Area residents in "birding") headed the first recorded Bay Farm Island Christmas count.

WORLD WAR II & THE RECOVERY PERIOD: Audubon members had little heart for the Christmas census following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Only 10 people participated. The total number of species seen dropped to 68, the same number recorded in the first published Christmas count in 1928. Soldiers were everywhere. Many good birding spots were closed because of military orders. The observers, armed with notebooks and binoculars were understandably suspect. But by 1943 with only 13 observers, 107 species were sighted, and in 1961 the S.F. census listed 129 species seen by 40 observers.

In 1958 a Tomales count listed 152 species with Phyllis Lindley as compiler. The number of species sighted rose to 174 in 1960 and in 1963 the Tomales and Marin counts merged.

GGAS ESTABLISHED AND S.F.–OAKLAND COUNTS MERGE: In 1949 the Audubon Association of the Pacific changed its name to the Golden Gate Audubon Society and the following year the East Bay Christmas count was re-established on a regular basis. By 1941 it was nationally in a quadruple tie for eighth place with a count of 123 species seen by 24 observers. In 1963 the San Francisco count was discontinued and since then, the GGAS count has been known as the Oakland count. There has been some talk by some of our younger San Francisco members of re-establishing the San Francisco count; it would be a worthwhile project to have Golden Gate sponsor a count on each side of the Bay.

PEAK COUNTS IN 1964 AND 1973.: Our peak count up until last year was in 1964 when, with the combined forces from both sides of the Bay, 57 observers registered 171 species, surpassed that year in California only by Tomales Bay with 186 and San Diego with 173 species recorded. Under compiler Van Remsen all our previous records were broken in 1973. We had 260 participants; our closest rival had 146 in the field. 188 species were recorded (the 13th highest in the country) and all time high records were recorded for 10 species. Preliminary work for the 1974 count was carried out most expeditiously by chief compiler Stephen Bailey; we eagerly await the results.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT: *Oakland Tribune's* Bill Fiset mentions that "The sweetest note of the week is the Audubon Society's recorded telephone message you get by calling 843-2211 that tells you where to look for certain birds on certain days". He goes on to say that "a lot of the time you get a busy signal which is a grating sort of bird call" but this is good evidence of the following which the Bird Alert has secured in the brief period since it was established last spring by Bill Principe. Joe Morlan has done a magnificent job of carrying on since Bill left for New Mexico and Bill's continued interest is shown by a note appearing in the most recent issue of California Birds in the Bulletin Board section in whch he lists the telephone numbers of the Bird Alert and of Joe Morlan and Bud Fry. This should make for even more complete coverage of sightings and more extensive use of the service. Meanwhile we hear of birders calling in from New Jersey and other Eastern areas as they lay plans for a vacation or for getting a new lifer.

Bill notes that our Southern California friends have a similar service which you may wish to take advantage of. For their taped message of sightings call (213) 874-1318. You may contaet the Los Angeles Audubon Society at (213) 876-0202.

ADULT NATURAL SCIENCE COURSES: The winter quarter at Albany Adult School begins January 6 and Principal Lawrence Hughes has arranged for the offering of classes in three areas in which our members and others interested in natural science have indicated prime interest. For anyone with the time and interest, it would be possible to take all three courses upon payment of the $6 registration fee for the quarter. The courses consist of 10 meetings each. Further information may be obtained by calling the Albany Adult School (526-6441) or our Education Chairman, Jim Clayton (524-2917). The day and time of each of these classes is as follows:

"Mushrooms of the Bay Area:" Perry Mulleavy; Monday, Jan. 6, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

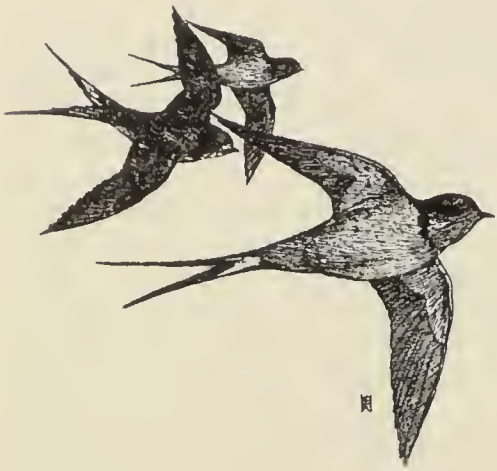
"Natural History of the Vertebrates of the Bay Area:" Paul Kelly; Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

"Geology of the Bay Area:" Art Smith; Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:00-10:00 P.M.

—G. R. MACHLIS, *President*

Editor's Comment

WINTER STORM



At sea, a thousand miles off Japan, a storm was born. Its parents were the cold air flowing from the polar regions and the warm, moist air from the south. Together they created the cyclonic winter storm, a revolving mass of air moving counter clockwise around a low pressure center. Carried by the westerlies, the storm moved toward the Pacific coast.

Cool winter sunshine shone on the Bay Area, but in the afternoon thin, gauzy clouds began to dim the sun. That night the moon wore a halo. The wind shifted to the south bringing with it the damp smells that meant rain. High cirrus clouds thickened and lowered becoming successively cirrostratus, altostratus, and finally nimbostratus, the dark rain clouds. The wind, continuing to rise, blew in heavy, sustained swells. Jet planes, usually approaching San Francisco from the east instead came in over the Berkeley Hills.

By dawn, the first raindrops splashed against the south windows. All morning the rain fell. Together, the rain and wind curried the eucalyptus trees bringing down long streamers of bark, seed pods and dry leaves. Gulls, taking to the air, moved inland and wheeled in wide circles against the gray sky. Song birds sought shelter, fluffing their feathers against the storm. A mockingbird preened, flashing white patches as he opened and closed his wings.

At noon, the wind abruptly shifted to the west. Violent, spasmodic gusts lashed the rain first one way and then another. Suddenly, the wind dropped, the rain ceased and clouds lowered over the hills as a white mist. Water ran down gutters and dripped off eaves. Quiet replaced the tumult of the storm.

The storm front moved rapidly southeastward dropping rain on the Great Central Valley and snow on the Sierra. In its wake, temperatures lowered and the wind freshened. By mid-afternoon, the mists dispersed revealing a brilliant, blue sky and towering cumulonimbus clouds. The clouds, moving across the horizon, trailed dark streamers that were rain squalls. Cloud shadows and sunshine created changing patterns on the Bay and brown streaks indicated the course of the silt-laden Sacramento River.

Sparrows again crowded the feed tray and flocks of juncos feed among the eucalyptus litter. Cedar waxwings and robins returned to feast on the ripe pyracantha berries. In sheltered bays, pelagic species like the petrels, auklets, and kittiwakes found refuge from the stormy sea. Rain beetles emerged from their round holes in the ground and a few Pacific tree frogs began to chorus.

The showers were over by nightfall and the northwest wind, dry and cool, burnished the stars. In the morning, frost rimmed the roofs while over the beige deserts of Nevada the storm died.

—PHILA WITHERELL, *Editor*

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

The third film in the Audubon Wildlife Series will be shown on Tuesday, January 14 at 8:00 P.M. in the Oakland Auditorium Theatre.

"Footloose in Newfoundland" is a fascinating narrative of the easternmost extension of North America. Its location, astride the world's most valued fishing waters, has shaped its history and its people. The film emphasizes wildlife while including scenes of quiet fishing villages, St. Johns, the 900 year old Viking settlement, and the cod and salmon fishermen.

Thomas A. Sterling, the lecturer-photographer, is a field naturalist dedicated to environmental education. His natural history films made for Audubon Wildlife Films have been shown on the Canadian Broadcasting network.

—FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER, *Wildlife Chairman*

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Two Walt Disney nature films will be shown at the January general membership meeting. They are: "Islands of the Sea", featuring the wildlife inhabiting the Galapagos and "Prowlers of the Everglades", a story of the creatures that occupy the swamplands of Florida.

The date: Thursday, January 9, 7:30 P.M.

The place: Rotary Science Center, Lake Merritt.

—DOLORES WHITE, *Program Chairperson*

Bay Area Birds

FIELD TRIPS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH

Sunday, January 5

Rare bird trip. Meet at the parking lot on the San Francisco end of the Golden Gate Bridge at 8:30 a.m. We will then drive to wherever the rare bird is. Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Peter Allen (781-0148).

Saturday, January 11

Crystal Springs Reservoir, San Mateo Co. Take Interstate 280 to Black Mountain Rd. exit near Hillsborough. Turn west at the exit, to Skyline Blvd. Turn left on Skyline, drive 1.3 mi. SE, park at the stone gateway entrance to Sawyer Camp Rd. at 9:00 a.m. We should see ducks and geese on the lake, plus many land birds. Leader: Barry Spitz (441-4565).

Wednesday, January 15

Berkeley Aquatic Park and Marina. From Eastshore Freeway (Interstate 80) take the University Ave. exit, east toward Berkeley. At 6th St. (first traffic signal) turn right 1 block to Addison St. and follow signs to Aquatic Park. Meet at the south end near the old Audubon Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader: Jim Clayton (524-2917).

Saturday, January 18

Bus trip to Thornton in Sacramento Valley to see swans and Sandhill Cranes. First loading at Grove and Larkin in front of Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, leaving promptly at 7:10 a.m. Second loading at Bellvue and Perkins at N end of Lake Merritt, Oakland, at 7:40. Return about 6:00 p.m. Make reservations with Pat Triggs, 2038 33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116, phone 664-8502. Send $5.00 and your telephone number in case of last minute changes. If you prefer to drive, meet the bus at the south end of the town of Thornton at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Paul Covel (536-4120).

Wednesday, January 22

In response to a request in the *Gull*, there will be a mini-walk for

seniors to Baker Beach and the west side of the Presidio in San Francisco. Meet at 25th and El Camino del Mar at the entrance to the Presidio at 9:00 a.m. For public transportation use 28 bus. Lunch optional. These mini-trips will be continued on a monthly basis (or oftener) if interest is shown. Organizers: Harriett Frazier (661-4787) and Eleanor Peterson (647-2517).

Sunday, January 26

Dillon Beach (originally scheduled for Jan. 25). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Bank of America building in the town of Tomales, on Hwy. 1. We will then go in caravan 7 miles to Lawson's Landing. Entrance fee $1.00 per car. We should see loons, Red-necked Grebes, Black Brant and shorebirds. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (561-2889).

Saturday & Sunday, February 1 & 2

Los Banos. Make overnight reservations at La Casa Motel, 528 Pacheco Blvd. (phone 209-826-0682) or Canal Farm Inn (209-826-5121). Meet both days at 9:00 a.m. at Los Banos State Refuge, 3 miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. If you can't come for both days, come for one. Driving time 2½ to 3 hours. We might see Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibis, plus many ducks and geese. Leaders: Marie Mans (284-7681) and Barry Spitz (441-4565).

Sunday, February 9

Caroline Livermore Marsh (Cypress Grove), Marin Co., by bus only. No parking available for cars. Same meeting places as for Thornton, January 18, but reverse the time schedule—Oakland at 7:10 a.m., San Francisco at 7:40. Bring lunch and scopes. Make reservations with Pat Triggs and send $5.00. Leader: Pamela Kruskal.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, February 14, 15 & 16

To Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., by bus. Make reservations now for two nights at the Sunset Motel, 1080 Market Ave., Morro Bay 93442, phone 805-772-2111. Single $8.40, double $12.60. Bus will leave Friday night at 6:00 from Grove & Larkin, San Francisco, and from the Alco Park Garage at 12th & Jackson, Oakland, at 6:30 p.m. Make bus reservations with Pat Triggs and send $10.00. Leader will be a member of Morro Bay Audubon Society. There is a good campground for drivers. We should see birds of the marsh, shorebirds, and Peregrine Falcons. Further details in February *Gull*.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 7, 8 & 9

A bus trip to Honey Lake, Lasson Co., to see Sage Grouse. It is a long drive. The bus will leave at 1:00 p.m. Friday, fare $15.00. Make reservations soon at Sierra Vista Motel, 1067 Main St., Susanville 96130, phone 916-257-2164. Singles $8.40, double $12.60. Make bus reservations with Pat Triggs. Leader: Ted Chandik.

No-leader trips

January 9, Tilden Park. Meet at Little Farm at 9:00 a.m.

January 29, Golden Gate Park. Meet at 43rd & Fulton at 9:00 a.m.

For both trips, lunch optional. Choose your own leader.

Dates to hold: February 22, Grizzly and Joice Islands; March 1, Point Molate.

—PAT TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Yellow-billed Loon, Tomales Bay, Nov. 13 through 24, many observers.

Blue Goose, Sacramento Natl. Wildlife Refuge, Nov. 23, BF et. al.

Ross' Goose, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Nov. 17, AE, F & LN.

European Wigeon, Palo Alto, Nov. 9, F & LN; Nov. 16, NS; Nov.22, JM, RS; 2 on Nov. 25, many observers.

Blue-winged Teal, up to 10 at Palo Alto, many observers.

Common Teal, north end Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 18, RS.

Fulvous Tree Duck, Thermalito Afterbay, Lake Oroville, Butte Co., Nov. 24, JB.

Barrow's Goldeneye, 2 at Lake Merritt, Nov. 9, JL; Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 10, LB; 4 at Lake Merritt, Nov. 17, NS; 2 at Solano Lake, Nov. 18, RS.

Oldsquaw, 1 female at Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 15, DD, WP.

Hooded Merganser, 6 at Solano Lake, Nov. 18, RS; 1 female at Jewel Lake, Nov. 17, NS.

Ferruginous Hawk, Wilson Hill Rd., NE Marin Co., Nov. 14, VH, AM, WMP.

Cattle Egret, Dillon Beach, Oct. 31 & Nov. 3, GM; Nov. 4, VH, AM, WMP; Palo Alto, Nov. 22, JM, RS.

American Golden Plover, 8 at Dillon Beach, Nov. 12, WMP et al.

Rock Sandpiper, Bodega Head, Nov. 8, CC; 2 on Nov. 14, WMP; 3 on Nov. 21, BH, LJ, JM; 3 on Nov. 28, NS.

Groove-billed Ani, near Hemet, Riverside Co., Nov. 4 through 16, many observers. First confirmed record for California.

Long-eared Owl, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Nov. 11, TS.

Pygmy Owl, near Half Moon Bay, Nov. 6, PM, BS.

Yellow-shafted Flicker, Moraga, Nov. 15 & 17, CC.

Thick-billed Kingbird, McLaren Park, San Francisco, Oct. 27 through Nov. 29, LB, B & SD et al. First N California record.

Dipper, 3 below Monticello Dam, Yolo Co., Nov. 15, RS.

Brown Thrasher, Solano Co. Park, Pleasant Valley Rd., Nov. 14 & 18, DG.

Townsend's Solitaire, 2 at Solano Lake, Nov. 18, RS.

Mountain Bluebird, 3 near Brentwood, Contra Costa Co., Nov. 4, NB; 2 at McClure's Ranch, Marin Co., Nov. 15, BM, RS.

Northern Shrike, Grizzly Island Refuge HQ, Nov. 26, CH, DRu.

Black-and-white Warbler, Olema Marsh, Nov. 18, RS.

Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore HQ, Nov. 16 through 19, F & LN et al.; Belmont, Nov. 22, FN.

Blackburnian Warbler, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 3, GB, B & CY; Belmont, Nov. 12, FN; abandoned ranch, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 18, BS.

Palm Warbler, Lake Merced, San Francisco, Nov. 23, BMcC.

Northern Waterthrush, Moss Beach, Nov. 3, AF; Rodeo Lagoon, Nov. 3, BH, LJ; Coyote Hills, Nov. 17, BH.

Tree Sparrow, Wilson Hill Rd., NE Marin Co., Nov. 4, VH, AM, WMP.

Grasshopper Sparrow, Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Nov. 17, K & SB, DRo.

White-throated Sparrow, Berkeley, Oct. 17 through Nov. 5, IT; Coyote Hills, Nov. 8, DE; Oakland, Nov. 9, DE; Berkeley, Nov. 18, VS; San Francisco, Nov. 11 through 29, EP.

Swamp Sparrow, 2 at Kehoe Marsh, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 15, BM, RS; Tomales Bay, Nov. 18 through 24, many observers; 2 at Coyote Hills, Nov. 23, BH; 22 at Olema Marsh, Nov. 24, JM, MLR et al.

Chestnut-collared Longspur, up to 11 at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, through Nov. 25.

Lapland Longspur, up to 50 at Hall Ranch, through Nov. 25.

Observers: Peter Allen, Karen & Steve Bailey, Laurence Binford, Jack Booth, Ned Boyajian, Greg Butcher, Chris Carpenter, Dale Clyde, Carolyn Connors, Byron & Sheila Davies, Donna Dittman, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Ann Follis, Bud Fry, David Gaines, Craig

Hohenberger, Vi Homem, Bill Hurd, Lee Jensen, Roberta Long, John Luther, Bill Manolis, Brian McCaffery, Alice Mericourt, Peter Metropulos, Grace Miller, Joe Morlan, Fran & Leroy Nelson, Wayne Pallson, Eleanor Peterson, Wm. M. Pursell, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Dave Rudholm, Barry Sauppe, Virginia Sherwood, Tom Southworth, Dixie Sperling, Rich Stallcup, Nick Story, Inez Troxell, Bob & Carol Yutzy.

—BUD FRY, *Observations Chairman*

Note: Please send January observations to Don Roberson, 1728 Berkeley Way, Apt. 5, Berkeley, California 94703, or phone 841-1763. The *Gull* prefers written descriptions of rare birds.

BOOK REVIEW

Birds of Western North America. Paintings by Kenneth L. Carlson, text by Laurence C. Binford, 1974. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York. $25.00, 223 pp.

This lavishly illustrated volume constaining paintings of fifty non-passerines accompanied by short essays wll provide pleasure to anyone who enjoys beautiful birds and would like to know more about them. There is a very useful introduction on "birding as a hobby" and "ornithology and the amateur." Here, Dr. Binford is uniquely qualified as he is Chairman of the Department of Birds and Mammals of the Caliofrnia Academy of Sciences, and an enthusiastic birder.

The text is written with the birder in mind, not the professional ornithologist. It is never superficial and reflects the erudition of the author.

Did you know that the black oystercatcher ingests entire limpets and regurgitates the shells in the form of pellets? Or that male and female ladder-backed woodpeckers utilize ecologically separate foraging sites? Or that mountain quail migrate to their wintering ground entirely on foot? It is all here and much more.

Data are included on range, diet, nest, eggs and family behavior. The opening lines often transport the reader to the bird's habitat. "The crisp clear air lay still over the sagebrush hills. Patches of snow lingered in dark shelterings, and sparse brown grass stood brittle with evening frost." Thus the stage is set for the intricate courtship display of the sage grouse.

The text is uneven in places, however, and the average reader will be put off by such phrases as: "the central rectrices are finely vermiculated . . . " to describe the white-tailed ptarmigan.

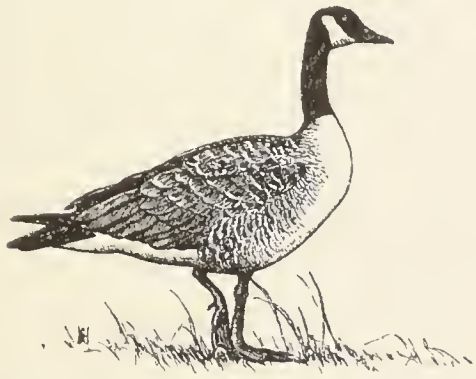
Many of the paintings are vibrant and exciting. Especially the portrait of a green kingfisher capturing a bullhead minnow underwater. A few,

like the white-tailed ptarmigan seem uninspired and routine. In my copy the female rufous hummingbird is slghtly out of focus, so check all the plates for slips in the printing before you buy.

Out of the fifty species treated, only half a dozen are unlikely to be seen in California, and it is a pleasure to have a book for the coffee table intended for west coast birders.

—JOE MORLAN

Covel's Conservation Corner



Suburban sprawl and public transportation vs. the automobile were the subject of comments sent to GGAS by Dr. William J. Filante. The comments represented his testimony given at the October hearings of Project Independence. Dr. Filante, the director of the Marin chapter of the Statewide Homeowners Association, claims the total average cost of an automobile is between $4000 and $5000 per year. This cost includes both direct and indirect private costs and government subsidies. In comparision, a complete public transit system costs between $100 and $500 per family per year. He also believes that financing of public transit systems must be by local assessments on the increased land values rather than by more grants and subsidies from the federal government.

In the housing field, Dr. Filante reminds us that single family homes do not usually pay their share of utilities, roads, schools, etc. He believes government subsidies for such construction should be removed. Keep this in mind, *Gull* readers, when you write, call or attend that council or supervisors' hearing on a new subdivision. While I was brought up on the American tradition of the private home and garden, I now realize this is a luxury we cannot afford even with a zero population growth in effect. We must have a master residential zoning plan to preserve open space.

It appears that pyramiding cattle-feed cost and rising beef prices may stimulate the sheep industry to expand production in the west. Lamb, they claim, can be put on your table far more cheaply than veal or beef which must undergo the costly feedlot stage. As for wool, we've always considered its many advantages over plastics for outdoor clothing. But

we must mount our guard against the renewed campaign of the Woolgrowers Association and some cattlemen to pressure the various governors, the President and EPA to revoke or relax the ban on lethal, secondary compounds like 1080, which is used for coyote control. The White House, Russell E. Train of the Environmental Protection Agency, (Waterside Mall, 401 M. Street, Washington, DC 20510), and Governor-elect Brown would probably like to hear from our readers about this. When coyote control is really essential, there are better methods than the use of Compound 1080.

The International Bird Rescue Research Center had only a month's reprieve of eviction (as of Dec. 1) at their facility on Eight Street, Berkeley. The ever-ready expertise and availability of this center were again demonstrated when some 240 botulism-stricken ducks and shorebirds from South San Francisco Bay marshes were recently placed in their care. Of these, they managed to save and release almost two-thirds. We understand total losses in the South Bay were about 12,000. When Bird Rescue finds a new home, they will desperately need funds for new pools, sinks, telephone, heat and other expenditures.

Public indignation and protests have apparently forced the Music Corporation of America and the National Park Service to reappraise MCA's grandiose expansion plans for Yosemite concessions. The public hearings have been postponed into 1975. But many major threats to our environment lurk in the BLM Organic Act now pending before the House Interior Committee. For example, Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton proposed an amendment which would permit oil development on protected public land except when Congress disapproved. This entire BLM legislation must be closely watched.

—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

PELAGIC BOAT TRIP

Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor a boat trip on Saturday, February 22, departing from Monterey at 8:00 A.M. This trip will provide members with the opportunity of viewing pelagic birds usually seen in the winter months only. There is a possibility of rough seas; therefore those who are not good sailors may wish to wait for pelagic trips offered during milder months.

Reservations should be made by sending $10.00 per person to GGAS Boat Trip, 2718 Telegraph, Suite 206, Berkeley, CA 94707. Make checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Additional information will be mailed out with the confirmation notices.

AN IMPORTANT CALENDAR

For a while we tried including in the *Gull* a "Happenings" column listing a few events, exhibits, classes etc. which we thought might interest GGAS readers. But space is always a problem for us and with a deadline of a month in advance of each issue, it was difficult to include up-to-date information. Now the Bay Area Environmental Calendar has come to the rescue. It is published monthly by the Ecology Center and NCCEI (the Northern California Committee for Environmental Information). It is chock full of information about classes, seminars, films and lectures, outings, and meetings. For anyone who hopes to keep abreast of what's happening in the Bay Area, this calendar is a must. Individual Subscriptions are $6, Supporting Subscriptions $12. Checks can be made payable to the Ecology Center and sent to: Calendar, Ecology Center, 2179 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENT

During the last two months, several projects have been implemented or proposed which directly affect the bird life and natural history of the Bay. In the South Bay, a small dike has been proposed on Bair Island along Redwood Creek and the Port of Redwood City. The dike will enclose a portion (100 acres) of the island which will be used for a landfill of dredged materials from the creek and the Port. The State Lands Commission gave the land to the Port for development; the only development they have managed in ten years was a larger diked area. The dike of the larger area ruptured soon after completion and has allowed tidal action in the development area.

In Emeryville, The Corps of Engineers is considering an eight story hotel-restaurant-ferry-marina building near the Tia Maria Restaurant. A wildlife refuge of 17.7 acres of open water with no marsh has been incorporated into the plan. The working paper of the Corps indicates the use of the Tia Maria area by endangered California Least Tern during a summer observation last year. Anyone knowing of any Least Tern sightings on the Emeryville-Watergate peninsula or other birds in the vicinity should write to me.

The environmental impact report of the City of Richmond has finally appeared and may involve the last of portions of the Stauffer-U.C. Field Station Marsh. The project has forced water-related industries from the Richmond Inner Harbor and will substitute residential and commercial uses for the land along the Bay and Harbor.

Richmond has many unique areas of natural history including the Hoffman and Stauffer marshes. An area little known to naturalists lies along the shoreline from the Richmond anchorage of the San Rafael Bridge. Superb views of the Richmond Straits, Pt. Molate, the Brothers, the Sisters, the last whaling station on the Pacific Coast, the original buildings of first major cooperative winery-Winehaven, and one of the largest antique-historic railroads can be viewed from public access. Although somewhat inhibiting, the road through the Pt. Molate Fuel Depot of the Oakland Naval Supply Station provides limited public access to the entire northern Richmond headlands and across to the Pt. San Pablo harbor.

The Chevron Tank Farm has been expanding down the flanks of the Richmond headlands and their control of the public access to the area may be exercised. Signs and fences seem to forewarn persons of the eventual loss of reasonable access to the area, the Pt. Molate Beach, and the entire northern sector of the headlands.

A field trip to Pt. Molate is planned for late February or the first of March if the Navy finally consents. The trip will extend from the rocky intertidal zone to upland coastal scrub and eucalyptus groves.

An important precedent has been established by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission with regard to compensation for wildlife loss or disturbance. The City of Vallejo and BCDC have agreed to re-establish 13 acres of *new* marsh lands in previously diked areas for the loss of 13 acres of existing marsh in an area that BCDC had designated for water-related industries. Although the agreement does not retain the marsh, marsh construction is sufficiently advanced to allow a reasonable success for the new marsh. The new marsh will be planned and constructed in conjunction with the California Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is an improvement over the idea of dedication of an acre of existing marsh for an acre of destroyed marsh.

—TOM WILLIAMS, *Environmental Chairman*

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

In memory of: *Gift of:*

For Audubon Canyon Raneh

Mr. Edmund Rossi ..... Margaret Maeormack

Catherine Carson ..... Mr. & Mrs. John W. Rhodes

Loris P. Smith ..... Paul & Marion Covel, Elsie B. Roemer

Myra Browne ..... Lolita Peterson

In memory of: *Gift of:*

For GGAS

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